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10 June 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

25X1 FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Status of CLAS Project

1. On the afternoon of 5 June 1986, the team leaders of CLAS provided a progress report on what they had been able to determine thus far about the capabilities of the various MSA modules that are under evaluation as replacements for at least part of the functions that are now being done with the assistance of the Inventory Control System (ICS), the Contract Information System (CONIF), and the voucher payment procedures used by OF/A&CD. [REDACTED] had requested this session to clarify for himself (and for all other CLAS participants and interested observers as well) how the test of the MSA packages was proceeding.

25X1 2. [REDACTED] summarized the approximately three hours of briefings by saying that he had found the presentations well organized and logically done and he was satisfied at having attained the principal purpose of the session. He estimated that the test schedule was about a month behind the original plan, however, he attributed the delay to the difficulties encountered in getting a stable test configuration.

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3. The remainder of this memorandum is an attempt to set down the impressions of one of the outside observers (one who has a limited knowledge of the current methods used by the Agency to order, purchase, receive, stock, deliver, and pay for the wide range of equipment and supplies used by the Agency) who attended the briefings.

4. It appears that the current versions of several of the MSA packages now being tested lack the functionality needed by Agency logistics and finance personnel to meet the basic requirements of many important Agency users (e.g. OTS, OC, and PINS). Part of the reason for the deficiencies in the MSA software which is designed primarily for commercial customers is that the Government has more complex and detailed reporting requirements. Another is the pervasive security rules and regulations. A third -- and almost unique to the Agency -- is the set of special requirements arising from operational considerations [REDACTED]

his
conclusion.
Not presented
at review.

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5. [REDACTED] the Technical Team Chief, gave an excellent summary of the work that had been accomplished to date and provided a shortened version of the report he had recently provided to his OIT management. A copy of his slides is attached (Tab A) which, besides succinctly portraying the

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magnitude of the system and identifying lingering problems, shows the wry sense of humor that undoubtedly helps sustain the "techies" during the difficult times of system loading and initial testing when both the users and the contractors are vying for their time and attention.

6. The primary impression from the statistics presented by [] is that the system is large and complex. The figures of 895,000 lines of code and 546 separate screens, i.e. menus are especially eye-catching. (It would be interesting to note the size of ICS and CONIF although their codes may not be comparable to the MSA modules because neither is written in COBOL.) [] near-term objective is to get his team out of the W-1 support mode -- turning that over to our TRW support person, Elizabeth Corte -- and get on to the task of reviewing the software and, in particular, see how the MSA programs interact with Cullinet's IDMS.

7. [] head of the inventory team, traced the procurement and inventory management procedures used by the Agency as reflected in the MSA Manufacturing Systems module and analyzed the differences in approach and data content. He used the example of a standard stock item, No. 2 lead pencils, and illustrated how that item is currently handled and how it would be dealt with using the MSA software. (See Tab B). [] color-coded the data elements in the current set of forms according to the traffic-light convention, namely:

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Green = the data element is provided for in the MSA system.

Yellow = the data element is not explicitly included in the MSA system but there appear to be simple and straightforward ways to incorporate the information either by using other fields in the MSA schema or relying on an unformatted "remarks" section.

Red = the data element is not included within the MSA system and there appears to be no easy way to provide for its inclusion.

25X1 8. [] noted that the distinction between yellow and red items was a judgment call and there could be some reclassification as the MSA packages became more completely understood. Two examples may clarify this distinction. The item description in ICS is 300 characters whereas the MSA system provides only 50. In [] view, 50 characters is probably sufficient to identify an item uniquely yet clearly and any exceptions could be readily handled by appended a remarks field that could extend up to 10,000 characters. For this reason, he made the item description "yellow". On the other hand, he made the sterility code on the replenishment requisition "red" because the MSA system has no provision to make any check as to the manufacturing source, a capability that is essential to several Agency components.

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25X1 9. Despite the number of fields on the current set of forms that were classed as "red", [] seemed generally optimistic about the capabilities of the MSA system. His team appeared to think that an effective system could be developed using the MSA Manufacturing Systems as a nucleus. He was especially enthusiastic about the flexibility and usefulness of the MSA item master file.

25X1 10. [] head of the purchasing team, made the
25X1 third presentation and followed the same approach as []
She noted that while the MSA Purchasing module appeared to have much more data available to it than did Manufacuturing Systems there were still a disturbing number of data elements on the current set of purchasing forms that could only be categorized as "red" (See Tab C).

25X1 11. [] indicated that the primary missing features in
25X1 the MSA system were provisions for tracking []
25X1 [] of items. she also noted that certain cost data did not appear to be included in the MSA packages such as payment indicators and provisions for withholding payment. She also observed, however, that her team had only had the Purchasing module for about two weeks and had not had time to examine it thoroughly.

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12. For the Accounts Payable segment, team leader

25X1 took a different tack. Instead of illustrating how the MSA system compared with the current Agency procedure, his team simply produced a check and a remittance advice (See Tab D).

25X1 noted, however, that many of the functions that are needed by the Finance will not be available until a later release (5.0) of Accounts Payable is developed by MSA. This additional capability is not expected to be available until June, 1987. He also noted that besides requiring release 5.0, Finance also needed the budgetary Control module to make commitments, decommitments, and to track obligations. (Tab D)

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